John R. Saunders, Mason, Legislator Dies in Hospital

John Raffell Saunders, 87, the grand old man of city Masonic circles and first elected reeve of Esquimalt, died yesterday afternoon in St. Joseph's Hospital.

Since his retirement 10 years ago he had spent much of his time at the Pacific Club, of which he was a member.

W. J. Cave, 45 Cambridge, who shared a business office for more than 35 years with Mr. Saunders, said he was "a very, very fine man."

He was a member of Columbia Lodge, AF & AM, for more than 50 years. In 1912 he was the lodge's master.

Mr. Saunders became ill Thursday, on the eve of the lodge's centennial celebrations at which he was to cut a cake because he was the oldest living member.

Born in Plymouth, England, he came here in 1892 with his family on a sailing vessel that came around The Horn.

His first job here meant "the use of a lot of muscle" he often told his friends. With the pay of 22 cents an hour he was happy at his work as a streetcar operator, running between the junction of Fort, Pandora and Oak Bay Avenue to a hotel that was near the present site of the Old Charming Inn.

It was an open rig operated by one man with a chain brake that required all the operator's strength to operate.

REAL ESTATE

He worked on the streetcars for several years before taking a job collecting for Esquimalt waterworks. Later he became interested in real estate.

It was during this time, in the early 1900s, that he was elected reeve of the newly-formed Esquimalt municipality, a position he filled for almost two years.

In 1916 he opened a real estate and insurance office with Mr. Cave at 1003 Langley, an office they maintained until 1942.

Mr. Saunders ran for office once and refused nominations after that. But for more than 20 years he was election agent for the late Charles Pooley who represented Esquimalt for several terms in the legislature.

When Mr. Pooley retired, Mr. Saunders continued as agent for his son, Harry, who became attorney-general in the Tolmie Conservative government.

Mr. Saunders lived for 50 years in Esquimalt and for the last 17 years at 29 Cambridge.

Mr. Saunders is survived by several nieces and nephews in Washington state.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 1.15 p.m. from Hayward's funeral home.

J. R. SAUNDERS
. . . first elected reeve

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Red Cross

$32,254 Netted So Far

Greater Victoria residents "are coming through wonderfully with donations for the annual Canadian Red Cross fund drive, but only 40 per cent of the needed $79,000 has been received.

"The need is urgent," said campaign chairman T. L. McMaster. "Without the support of the public we could not continue giving the aid we are noted for."

Donations can be sent to the Canadian Red Cross Society, at 1046 Fort.

An audit yesterday showed $32,254 had been received so far. Campaign officials are optimistic the month-long fund drive will end with the quota being reached in the next week.

Typical of the response was a case involving a pensioner who called at Red Cross House asking if it would be possible for her to canvass her own rooming house.

She said other pensioners like herself would like to donate but that the building they live had been missed by canvassers.

Several days later she returned with $35.67.

One of the largest single donations was $602 from B.C. Electric Co. Ltd. employees.

Children

Concert Heard By 3,000

There were few busman's holidays yesterday morning when almost 3,000 junior high school students jammed 22 chartered B.C. Electric buses to attend the final symphony concerts for school children in the Royal Theatre.

With Clifford Evans conducting, the Victoria Symphony Orchestra gave two one-hour concerts, at 9.30 and 11 a.m.

H. J. Bigsby, music director of the Victoria school board, said that the purpose of the concerts was to illustrate classroom music lessons.

"The concerts were educational, rather than just entertaining," he said.

The concerts were financed by part of a $10,000 Canada Council grant to the Victoria Symphony Orchestra.

The concerts will be repeated next year.

Chest Gives $252,081 To Its 20 Agencies

Up $41,844 From 1958

Directors of the Community Chest of Greater Victoria last night approved allocation of $252,081 among its 20 member agencies.

The over-all figure is $41,844.93 higher than last year's allotments, but nearly $10,000 had to be pared from agency requests.

B. A. Tobin, chairman of the budget committee, reported in a letter to the directors that the committee's task was "made somewhat easier" this year as a result of last fall's record collection.

NOT DENIED

The agencies were not denied as much as they had been in previous years when cuts were "much more drastic," he said, adding that up to $45,000 has been slashed from last year's requests.

Largest increase of $7,815 was given to the Family and Children's Service which will receive $68,015. More children are coming under the care of this agency, and both the new group home for girls on Howe Street and a proposed group home for boys are being given sufficient funds to begin operations this year, a Chest official said.

ANOTHER WORKER

John Howard Society will receive $13,496, an increase of $5,454, permitting another case worker to be added to the staff engaged in case work therapy designed to rehabilitate those who want to help themselves after release from prison.

Boy Scouts Association will receive $19,226, an increase of $5,201 granted because of the increasing number of boys and to cover loss of revenue caused by the Chest's refusal to permit an "apple day" to be held this year.

$25,500 FOR VON

Victorian Order of Nurses will receive $25,500, an increase of $5,125 granted because of increased operating costs and an attempt to bring VON nursing salaries into line with those paid in the community.

The YMCA will receive $30,275, an increase of $4,995 granted because of more boys using the "Y." Fees charged there do not cover complete costs and Chest money is invested so any youngster who wishes may join.

Similar reasons applied to the YWCA allotment of $27,075 which was raised $4,504.

$3,500 INCREASE

St. John Ambulance will receive $11,000, an increase of $3,500 granted because of a growing program of volunteer service given at public events.

Silver Threads Service will receive $6,538, an increase of $2,120.43, permitting a "placements and volunteer co-ordinator" to be added to the staff to handle the growing number of requests for service.

$1,681 INCREASE

SPCA will receive $2,828, an increase of $1,681 granted to assist the agency in its program of education and prevention of cruelty. The pound work done by the SPCA is completely self-supporting, the Chest emphasized.

Canadian Arthritis and Rhuematism Society will receive $10,067, an increase of $1,126 to cover additions to the staff at the local clinic.

WELFARE COUNCIL

Community Welfare Council will receive $4,543, an increase of $856; Canadian Welfare Council will receive $1,470, an increase of $470; St. Vincent de Paul Society will receive $3,000, an increase of $335; and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind will receive $12,060, an increase of $43.

Agencies which sought the same allotment as last year were granted their requests. St. Joseph's Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary received $1,055, Columbia Coast Missions received $1,000 and Muscular Dystrophy Association received $750.

Agencies which asked for less than last year's allotments and whose requests were granted were Fred Landsberg, $10,898; Citizens' Recreational Rooms, $1,885; and Christmas Bureau, $1,400.

The Stockton-Darlington railway in England, using Stephenson's steam locomotive, opened in 1825.

B. A. TOBIN
. . . task easier

* * *

Harbord Elected

Community Chest officers elected for 1959 are Justin V. Harbord, president; Eric Mallet and A. E. Walters, vice-presidents; and R. A. Dykes, honorary treasurer.

Directors elected are:

Dr. Peter J. Banks, E. A. Benton, Gilbert Brown, T. L. Christie, Cmdr. M. E. Doyle, Mrs. Daryl Elford, George Gregory MLA, Gordon Jennings, Mrs. W. C. Mearns, W. C. Mearns, Frank Norton, Percy Rayment, Mrs. Arthur Roberts, Miss Sara Spencer, B. A. Tobin, A. W. Toone, A. E. Walters, Harold Webster, William Yardley, R. W. Mayhew and Stuart Keate.

* * *

Community Chest

'Outside' Groups Invited Inside

Community Chest officials last night expressed hopes that "outside" charitable organizations would soon join the Chest's "united appeal" and reduce the multiplicity of appeals.

Hope was raised in reports given during the Chest's annual meeting at Spencerhouse, 1951 Cook.

H. A. Wallace, 1958 president, said that so many appeals are being made that it "has a tendency to build up an immunity to appeal in the minds of the donor, and its duplication of fund-raising costs is both wasteful and unnecessary."

The Chest was set up 22 years ago, he said, "to economically collect money for worthy charities in a way that was convenient to the public, economical of the volunteers' time and energy, provide a savings in campaign costs and spend the money in a manner which would guarantee the optimum return to the community.

"We have demonstrated our abilities to increase campaign results," Mr. Wallace said. "It is our sincere hope that those worthy charities now outside the Chest will join with us in a truly united appeal."

Four agencies have been approached on this matter, he said.

A. G. Gilmore, executive secretary, said, "I cannot see one good reason why they do not join us." Campaign goals of agencies outside the Chest "have remained practically constant," whereas the Chest has been "increasing at the rate of 10 per cent per year and in the last campaign 26 per cent."

Justin V. Harbord, 1958 campaign chairman and 1959 president, predicted that the 1959 drive (goal has not been announced) will "exceed its campaign objective by at least five per cent."

At least 5,000 canvassers would be needed to do the job, he said. Some 3,300 volunteer canvassers brought in $277,000 during last fall's drive.

* * *

Foundation Revival Suggested

A rejuvenation of the Victoria Foundation, to be supported by endowments and bequests and to be devoted to the provision of services needed in Greater Victoria, was suggested last night by H. A. Wallace, 1958 Community Chest president.

The almost-forgotten trust fund was established in 1936 as a method of financing city charities.

Such a foundation could provide health and recreational facilities, hospitals, clinics or even an addition to Spencerhouse, Mr. Wallace said in his report given during the Chest's annual meeting at Spencerhouse.

"It has lain dormant for years, with most people including estates officers and bankers unaware of its existence," he said.

Drugs for Addicts Yukon Jaycee Topic

NANAIMO (CP)—The B.C.-Yukon Junior Chamber of Commerce convention at Nelson this year will discuss a resolution proposed here Monday by Nanaimo Jaycees urging free drugs for registered addicts.

Ronald F. MacIsaac told the chamber that punishment of drug addicts was no deterrent and that most of Vancouver's crime was attributed directly to narcotics users.

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